

DEC 22 2004

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Attorney Docket No. 04027/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

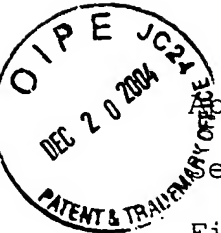
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N. Sahadeo  
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connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

Applicant(s): S. NOMURA et al  
Serial No. : 10/762,824  
Filed : January 21, 2004  
For : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
APPARATUS THEREFOR AND PROGRAM  
FOR CONTROLLING OPERATIONS  
OF IMAGE PROCESSING  
Art Unit : 2673  
Examiner :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated December 3,  
2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of non-U.S. patent cited publications; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying  
the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any  
non-English language publications cited therein  
(MPEP 609 III A(3)).

USP 5,287,418 and US 2002/0196973 are family members of  
EP 0 424 920 and EP 1 248 455 respectively. See the Annex to the  
EPSR.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)**


Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of December 3, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: December 20, 2004

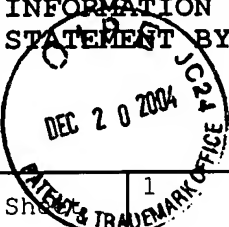
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PTO/SB/C8A (08-00)

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|  |                      |                        |                  |          |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br> | Application Number   |                        | 10/762,824       |          |
|  | Filing Date          |                        | January 21, 2004 |          |
|  | First Named Inventor |                        | S. NOMURA        |          |
|  | Group Art Unit       |                        | 2673             |          |
|  | Examiner Name        |                        |                  |          |
| Sheet 1  | of 2                 | Attorney Docket Number |                  | 04027/LH |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits* | Cite No | Document Number | Kind Code <sup>2</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|              |         | 5,287,418       | A                      | KISHIDA                       | 02-15-1994                  |                  |
|              |         | 6,226,011       | B1                     | SAKUYAMA et al                | 05-01-2001                  |                  |
|              |         | 2002/0196973    | A1                     | SCHRODER et al                | 12-26-2002                  |                  |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam Inits* | Cite No | Offc. | Document Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant   | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|             |         | JP    | 0 424 920                    | A2                     | DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG. CO., LTD. | 05-02-1991                  |                  |                |
|             |         | JP    | 1 248 455                    | A1                     | IMIP LLC                        | 10-09-2002                  |                  |                |

|                    |  |                 |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Unique citation designation number. See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIFO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIFO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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|   |   |    |   |                        |                  |
|---|---|----|---|------------------------|------------------|
| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> |   |    |   | Application Number     | 10/762,824       |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date            | January 21, 2004 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor   | S. NOMURA        |
|   |   |    |   | Group Art Unit         | 2673             |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name          |                  |
| Sheet   | 2 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 04027/LH         |

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials <sup>1</sup> | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item, date,<br>page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published   | T <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
|                                   |                          | SMEULDERS, A.W.M. et al., "Content-Based Image Retrieval at the End of the Early Years" IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 22, No. 12, Pages 1349-1380, XP001050971, ISSN: 0162-8828, December 2000. |                |
| Examiner<br>Signature             |                          | Date<br>Considered   |                |

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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